



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

a snapshot of women rebuilding their lives,
leading their communities and re-entering the
workforce in the wake of the conflicts in
Afghanistan and Iraq and the tsunami in Asia

Rebuilding HOPE

AFGHANISTAN

Empowering Women

USAID/PETER REISS, DAI



USAID/NITIN MADHAV

IRAQ

Creating Opportunities

TSUNAMI

Bringing Hope & Jobs



USAID/SARAH MCNIECE



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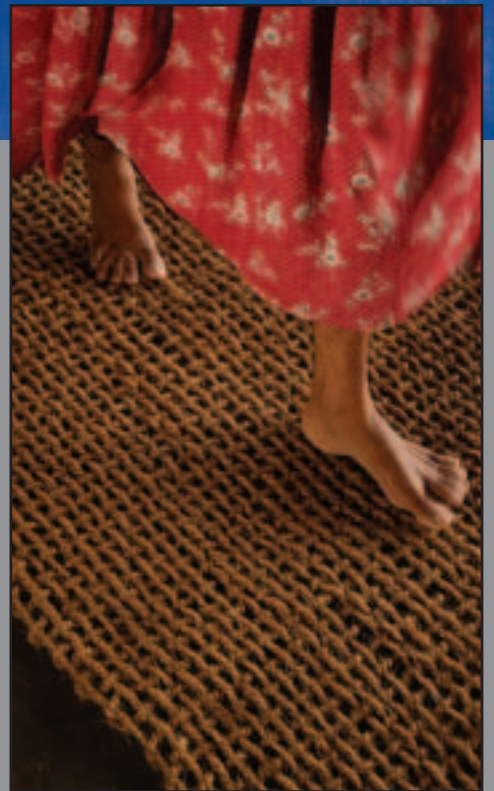
Bringing Hope & Jobs



USAID/SARAH MCNIECE

“Natural disasters hurt people and cripple economies... but victims are never helpless... Disaster survivors are often the strongest voices for change.”

Andrew Natsios
USAID Administrator



USAID/GEMUNU AMARASINGHE

Hope is as essential to life as food and water. Faith in ourselves and the future helps us go on in the face of disaster and conflict.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) knows how to nurture hope and give people the tools they need to rebuild their lives.

Rebuilding Hope is the story of the women who rose to the challenge and started their lives over after the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq and the tsunami in Asia.

In these pictures, we see women voting, working in non-traditional jobs, teaching school and caring for their families. We see the resilience of the human spirit.

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WOMEN IN PAKTYA LEARN TO READ AND WRITE

After years of being shut out of the school system, Afghan women have one of the lowest literacy rates in the world. Classes like this one give women the chance to be literate, opening up many new possibilities for them and their families.

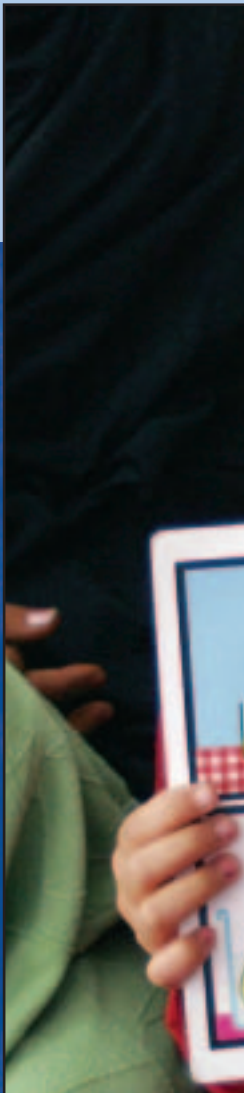
USAID/BARBARA RODEY



**AT THE NEW WOMEN'S TEACHER
TRAINING INSTITUTE,** lead teachers prepare to train teachers in some of Afghanistan's poorest and most remote districts and villages. The intergenerational program focuses on reading, writing, math and life skills for villagers, with a 65 percent focus on girls and women.

Across Afghanistan, women are accepting the challenge to help lead the country, teach the next generation and expand their own education. USAID has been a committed and active partner along the way.

Working with the Government of Afghanistan and community and business leaders, USAID is rebuilding the education and health systems, strengthening a growing democracy and revitalizing agriculture and the economy. Women and girls are part of that effort.



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“ Women were educated, and women were a vital part of life...[A] society can only achieve its full potential when all of its members participate.”

First Lady Laura Bush in a radio address to women of Afghanistan



USAID/NITIN MADHAV

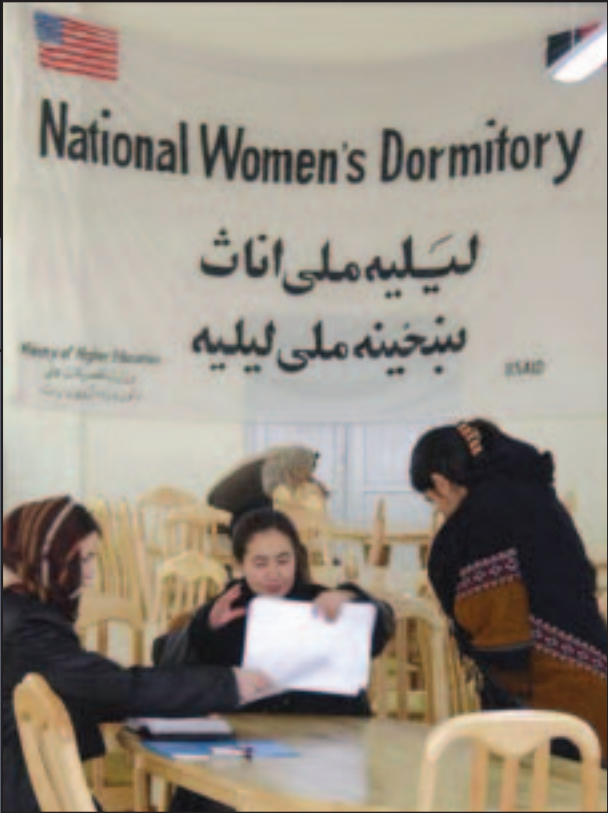
THE JALALABAD WOMEN'S CENTER is one of 17 funded by USAID in Afghanistan. These centers, located in provincial capitals, provide sanctuaries for women to learn job skills, attend literacy and other classes and access resources.



GIRLS LEARN TO USE WATER TREATMENT KITS to purify water for their homes. Programs to teach basic hygiene and expand health care for women, men and children help save the lives of families across Afghanistan.

USAID/PSI

THE NEWLY RENOVATED NATIONAL WOMEN'S DORMITORY in Kabul is ready for female students. The dorm gives women a safe place to prepare for new careers and positions of leadership. It will house 1,100 women attending universities and medical and technical schools in Kabul.



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**USAID PROVIDES
FOOD TO WOMEN**

and their families in southern Iraq while the new Iraqi Government sets up a system to help those in need.



USAID/THOMAS HARTWELL



USAID/BEN BARBER

THIS COUNCILWOMAN is a member of one of Baghdad's nine district councils. USAID helped set the councils up to address citizens' needs, including roads, sewage, security, education and electrical power. She also represents her district on the Baghdad City Council.

AN IRAQI ENGINEER makes a site visit to a Baghdad power plant. In the face of sabotage, repairs continue on the country's electrical system, including 29 major generating plants, transmission grids and substations.



USAID/THOMAS HARTWELL

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WOMEN VOTE IN KIRKUK

Iraqis went to the polls on January 30, 2005 in the first free national elections in generations. USAID assisted with logistics for voting across the country, sponsored voter education campaigns and trained and deployed observers to the polls. Women won approximately 31 percent of the seats in the Transitional National Assembly.



USAID/THOMAS HARTWELL

HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF IRAQI STUDENTS

dropped out of school in the last decade of Ba'ath party rule. USAID launched a program to help motivated young people combine two years of schooling into one. Students attend Hala Bint Khuwaylid girls school in Baghdad with new bags, books, pens and calculators.

Women are vital to the long-term development of a peaceful and prosperous Iraq.

USAID ensures that women can participate fully in the political, economic and social life of their country.

IRAQ

opportunities

USAID/JULIE FOSSLER



ON THE FIRST DAY BACK TO SCHOOL

in Trincomalee, Sri Lanka, girls smile as they walk by in clean, donated uniforms. Cleaning out and repairing schools has been a top priority to help re-establish a sense of stability in children's lives.

USAID/DR. ENDANG, CARE



The day after a massive earthquake and tsunami devastated communities and killed thousands in Asia, USAID responded with life-saving medical care, food, water and shelter. Now the work is focused on rebuilding livelihoods, communities and schools.

WATER CHLORINATION KITS

help keep families healthy and stop the spread of disease. Under the watchful eye of a health care worker, this woman who lost her home to the tsunami in Indonesia learns how to use the chlorination solution. One capful purifies 20 liters of water.

TSUNAMI

Bringing



DELIVERED SAFELY at the maternity ward in a Banda Aceh hospital in Indonesia, this baby arrived soon after the tsunami. Ninety percent of Indonesia's children are born with the help of midwives, but about 20 percent of Aceh's midwives were killed in the tsunami. Training and counseling for the remaining midwives and support for maternity wards mean mothers can continue to deliver babies safely.

“I really enjoy working here because I am with friends... instead of just thinking about the water all day.”

Ainula Mardiah, participant in a cash-for-work program in Indonesia.



USAID/SARAH MCNIECE

COMMUNITY KITCHENS

PROVIDE FOOD for those made homeless by the tsunami in India. In this kitchen, local women help feed 43 families in Nagappattinam.

CASH-FOR-WORK programs on Sri Lanka's eastern coast give women and men much-needed incomes. In exchange for daily wages, they clean up and rebuild their communities.



USAID/ERANGA JAYAWARDANE

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Hope & Jobs